

CLAIMS

1. Image recording apparatus suitable for recording traffic signal violations, said apparatus including:
- 5 means for capturing a first image substantially at an instant of time that a control signal changes its status;
- means for storing said first image at least temporarily;
- means for detecting presence of a vehicle or object beyond a location at which said vehicle or object is required to stop in response to said change in
- 10 status; and
- means responsive to said detecting means for recording said first image in the event that said detecting means detects presence of said vehicle or object beyond said location.
- 15 2. Image recording apparatus according to claim 1 including means for capturing a second image after a preset time delay following said instant of time.
3. Image recording apparatus according to claim 1 including means for
- 20 capturing a second image in response to said detecting means.
- sub.a1 4. Image recording apparatus according to claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein said change in status includes a traffic light signal changing to a red light.
- 25 5. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said means for capturing includes a digital camera.
6. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said means for storing includes a volatile memory such as RAM.
- 30 7. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein means for recording includes WORM type media.

8. Image recording apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6 including means for deleting said first image in the event that said detecting means does not detect presence of said vehicle or object beyond said location.
- 5 9. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image shows at least the position of said vehicle or object relative to said location.
- 10 10. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said detecting means includes an inductive loop set below a road surface.
- 15 11. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said location includes a stop line marked on a roadway.
12. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image includes a wide angle image.
- 20 13. Image recording apparatus according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image includes an approach to an intersection of two or more roads.
- 25 14. A method of recording traffic violations including the steps of:  
capturing a first image substantially at an instant of time that a control  
signal changes its status;  
storing said first image at least temporarily;  
detecting presence of a vehicle or object beyond a location at which said  
vehicle or object is required to stop in response to said change in status; and  
recording said first image in the event that said detecting means detects  
30 presence of said vehicle or object beyond said location.
15. A method according to claim 14 including capturing a second image a preset time delay following said instant of time.

16. A method according to claim 14 including capturing a second image in response to said detecting means.

5 17. A method according to claim 14, 15 or 16 wherein said change in status includes a traffic light signal changing to a red light.

18. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 17 wherein said step of capturing is performed with a digital camera.

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19. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image is stored in volatile memory such as RAM.

15 20. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image is recorded onto WORM type media.

21. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 19 including the step of deleting said first image in the event that said detecting means does not detect presence of said vehicle or object beyond said location.

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22. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image shows at least the position of said vehicle or object relative to said location.

25 23. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said detecting is performed with an inductive loop set below a road surface.

24. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said location includes a stop line marked on a roadway.

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25. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image includes a wide angle image.

26. A method according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said first image includes an approach to an intersection of two or more roads.
27. Image recording apparatus suitable for recording traffic signal violations  
5 substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
28. A method of recording traffic signal violations substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.